

# The arctic seal who is afraid of the cold

**A** An Arctic seal who doesn't like the cold is receiving therapy at a sanctuary in England. Sahara, a two-year-old native of the sea around Iceland, has been rescued twice after he decided he was better suited to warmer waters. In December he was flown from the Canary Islands to England. An ice machine has been installed in his sanctuary to help to acclustom him to Arctic conditions.

**B** Sahara first washed up on a beach in Morocco, 4,000km from his home. Then nine months old, the seal had lost his fur and was barely alive. He was treated in England and then released near Scotland in the hope that, having learned that warmth was not good for his health, he would return to his natural habitat. Instead, he went south again, and was found 1,300km away on the north coast of Spain, on another beach.

**C** While seals occasionally swim south, it is usually because they are following food, and they tend to return immediately to the north. But Sahara was unable to find food and ended his voyages dangerously hungry. His rescuers will not attempt to reintroduce him to the ocean. Instead, they will focus on making conditions in his sanctuary as similar to his natural habitat as possible. This involves a machine that makes half a ton of ice a day. Staff said Sahara swam to the other side the first time they put ice into it.

**D** Tamara Cooper, Sahara's carer, said: "The problem is Sahara is an Arctic seal who is afraid of the cold. It's a bit like being a bird which is scared of heights. Nobody likes the cold but if you're a seal you've got to get used to it fast." She added: "It took a while, but some memory from his infancy eventually made him come to the ice for a closer inspection. Once he had smelled it and swum over it for the first time he found he actually likes it. We don't think it will be long before Sahara is a proper ice-loving Arctic seal again."

1 Read the text and choose the correct answers. (4 marks)

- 1 In December, Sahara...  
A swam from the Canary Islands to England.  
B was taken by plane from the Canary Islands to England.  
C was taken back to the Arctic Ocean.  
D Scientists hoped that Sahara would...
- 2 Sahara's rescuers want to...  
A swim north.  
B find another beach.  
C put him back in the sea soon.  
D recreate natural conditions in the sanctuary.
- 3 Sahara's carer says that Sahara...  
A remembered ice from when he was a baby.  
B will never like swimming in ice.  
C has a long way to swim to the Arctic.

2 Match words 1-8 with words from the text. (4 marks)

- 1 more at home in (paragraph A) *was better suited*
- 2 almost not (paragraph B) *barely*
- 3 usually (paragraph C) *lead to*
- 4 become accustomed to (paragraph D) *get used to*

3 Complete the sentences with the correct prepositions. (2 marks)

- 1 The sea *around* Iceland is very cold.
- 2 The seal was found *on* a beach.
- 3 Scientists want to focus *on* recreating natural conditions.
- 4 Are you scared *of* heights?

Total /10 marks

## SPENDING OTHER PEOPLE'S MONEY



**D** The law caught up with Elliott in 2004, by which time he had stolen £1 million from other people's credit cards. He was picked up in London's Harvey Nichols department store and sentenced to two years in prison. Elliott now lives in Glasgow and works as a DJ. He also advises credit-card companies on what to do to prevent the fraud he once practised.

**C** Armed with a notebook full of numbers and personal details, Elliott set off for London, staying in five-star hotels, buying designer clothes and dining on champagne and caviar. As his confidence grew, he flew first class to Canada and the United States. He passed himself off as a jet-set millionaire, a prestigious doctor, and a lieutenant in the United States Air Force.

**B** The story of Elliott Castro shows how serious the problem can be. In 1999, Elliott was a sixteen-year-old working-class teenager with no qualifications. He began a five-year career as a credit-card fraudster which took him to London, New York, Beverly Hills and eventually prison. It

### READING

1 Read the text quickly. What did Elliott Castro do?

2 Read the text again and answer the questions using your own words.

- 1 What methods do criminals use to commit credit-card fraud? *They ask for personal details over the telephone, take credit-card receipts from bins, or copy card details if they work in shops or restaurants.*
- 2 What does the text tell us about Elliott's origins? *He was from a poor background and had no educational qualifications.*
- 3 How did Elliott obtain credit-card information? *He received credit-card information from customers while he was working in a call centre.*
- 4 In what circumstances was Elliott arrested? *He was arrested in a department store in London.*
- 5 Why does Elliott now work for credit-card companies? *He tells them how to prevent credit-card fraud.*

3 Find words or expressions in the text which match the definitions.

- 1 have access to (paragraph A) *get hold of*
- 2 a credit-card fraudster *plain-clothes detectives*
- 3 a millionaire who belongs to the jet set *a jet-set millionaire*
- 4 a fraudster who commits fraud using credit cards *a credit-card fraudster*
- 5 detectives who were wearing plain clothes *plain-clothes detectives*

4 Use a compound adjective to make the phrases shorter. Notice the use of the hyphen (-).

- 1 a career which lasted for five years *a five-year career*
- 2 information about credit cards *credit-card information*
- 3 a millionaire who belongs to the jet set *a jet-set millionaire*
- 4 a fraudster who commits fraud using credit cards *a credit-card fraudster*
- 5 detectives who were wearing plain clothes *plain-clothes detectives*